

## ***Hampton Roads Regional LHRC Meeting***

**February 22, 2006**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Roderick Hawthorne at 9:35 AM.

### **II. INTRODUCTIONS:**

Quorum present: Dr. Roderick S. Hawthorne, LHRC Chairman, Mary Baylor, Marilyn Copeland, Sara Flippens, and Wanda Ward.

Quorum absent: All committee members were present.

Regional Advocate, DMHMRSAS, present: Reginald Daye.

Affiliate Representatives: Phil Black, Commonwealth Support Systems; Gilbert Hernandez, Jr., Community Services of Virginia, Inc.; Joan Whitted, Emerson Place, Inc.; Jeffrey Moore, Juanita Austin, & Vanessa Futrell, Family Redirection Institute, Inc.; Ethel Heyward, G.R.A.C.E., Inc.; Ramona Ramos, James Bentley Treatment Program; Kimberly Pervall, Northwestern Human Services, Inc.; Bill Miller, Sentara Mental Health Services; Joanna Stinespring, Sentara Senior Behavioral Health Services; Paul Battle & Kenyette Bishop, Tranquility Manor, LLC; and Cynthia Whitehead, Unique Friends, LLC.

### **III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes were approved as written for the meeting held on 11/16/05. The approved minutes were forwarded to Margaret Walsh, State Human Rights Director, on 2/22/06 to be posted on the state website.

A hard copy of the minutes will be mailed to Reginald Daye, Regional Advocate.

### **IV. OLD BUSINESS:**

There are no vacancies for committee members on this LHRC. Two committee members, Marilyn Copeland and Dr. Roderick S. Hawthorne, have appointments that will expire 6/3/06. Both have agreed to be reappointed.

Existing human rights regulations are in a draft format, and are currently awaiting feedback by cabinet secretaries. The revised regulations can be viewed on the web: <http://www.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov/documents/OHR-RevisedRegulations.pdf>

## **V. NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Daye reported the next Local Human Rights Committee (LHRC) conference will be September 7–8.

Mr. Daye reviewed the memo to the LHRCs from the State Human Rights Committee (SHRC) dated 2/2/06 regarding bylaws and minutes. The SHRC recommended that all bylaws include specific language regarding quorums and the removal of members. The Hampton Roads Regional LHRC (HRR LHRC) bylaws will adopt the recommended language which protects the Commonwealth. The LHRC voted to approve these changes.

Mr. Daye also reviewed the changes to the way we currently communicate the LHRC meeting minutes. The minutes approved at the current meeting will be forwarded to Margaret Walsh, State Human Rights Director, to be posted on the state website ([margaret.walsh@co.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov](mailto:margaret.walsh@co.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov)) within three (3) business days. A draft of the current minutes will be forwarded to Margaret Walsh for posting on the website within ten (10) business days of the Committee meeting. The “Freedom of Information Act” mandates that all service providers post at each of their sites the date, time, and location of all scheduled LHRC meetings. This posting will include a list of all meetings scheduled for the upcoming year (5/31/06, 8/23/06, 11/29/06, and 2/28/07).

Mr. Daye reviewed and provided training on the “Virginia Freedom of Information Act”, summarizing selected provisions for the SHRC. Each member of the Committee was given a handout.

All affiliated service providers signed the Hampton Roads Regional LHRC Provider Responsibilities Agreement 2006.

A question was raised regarding the use of chemical restraints on an as-needed basis. Mr. Daye reminded affiliates that pharmacological restraints are treated the same as mechanical restraints. Therefore PRNs aren’t allowed for either type. There was also a discussion following a comment that child safety locks on vans are not considered restraints.

Bill Miller, currently managing the finances, reported a balance of \$1,818 as of 2/22/06. All affiliated service providers paid their annual dues except Northwestern Human Services, Inc. and Community Services of Virginia, Inc. According to the Hampton Roads Regional LHRC Provider Responsibilities Agreement 2006, a provider has 30 days from the first meeting of the year to pay their dues and remain compliant.

## **VI. NEW PROGRAMS REQUESTING AFFILIATION:**

Community Services of Virginia, Inc. reported they are planning to add an additional program, which would provide services for children. Per Mr. Daye, the agency must submit its training plan for the management of aggressive behavior, and its human rights policies and procedures to the Committee for review.

Family Redirection Institute, Inc. had previously been granted temporary affiliation for an additional site in Newport News that would mirror their current services and clientele. The Committee agreed to continue temporary affiliation as the additional site is not licensed. The agency also requested temporary affiliation for a group home in Newport News that would provide outpatient services for clients in that area. The Committee voted and approved temporary affiliation for the additional facility.

G.R.A.C.E., Inc. had also been granted temporary affiliation for a second facility in Hampton that would mirror their current services and clientele. The Committee agreed to continue temporary affiliation as the second facility is not licensed.

James Bentley Treatment Program had a temporary affiliation status for nonpayment of dues. The 2005 dues were paid this date; the Committee voted and approved permanent affiliation for the agency. They are now planning to increase their license from 8 – 12 consumer beds.

Northwestern Human Services, Inc. had also been granted temporary affiliation for a fifth facility that would mirror their current services and clientele. The Committee agreed to continue temporary affiliation for the additional facility as the agency needs to submit their letter to Mr. Daye (requesting to use the same Human Rights policies and LHRC).

Tranquility Manor, LLC had also been granted temporary affiliation for a third facility that was licensed in October 2005. The Committee voted and approved permanent affiliation this date for the additional facility.

## **VII. PROGRAM REPORTS:**

Commonwealth Support Systems – 22 individuals are in day support, and 6 are receiving in-home residential support. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported. An annual report on the use of seclusion and/or restraints was submitted.

Community Services of Virginia, Inc. – 93 consumers (40 are receiving in-home services, 19 in day support programs, and 34 are group home residents). No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported. An annual report on the use of seclusion and/or restraints was submitted.

Emerson Place, Inc. – 3 residential consumers. No seclusion or restraints reported, but one allegation of abuse was reported. A progress report of an approved behavioral plan that includes the use of a protective device must be presented to the LHRC at each quarterly meeting. An annual report on the use of seclusion and/or restraints has not been submitted. (Mr. Daye reinforced that programs can be fined for noncompliance.)

Family Redirection Institute, Inc. – 55 in-home counseling cases (35 males and 20 females). No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported. An annual report on the use of seclusion and/or restraints was submitted.

G.R.A.C.E., Inc. – 4 residential consumers. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported. An annual report on the use of seclusion and/or restraints has not been submitted.

James Bentley Treatment Program – 3 residential consumers. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported. An annual report on the use of seclusion and/or restraints has not been submitted.

Northwestern Human Services, Inc. – 25 individuals are in residential support, and 0 are receiving in-home services. No seclusion or restraints reported, but one allegation of abuse was reported. An annual report on the use of seclusion and/or restraints was submitted.

Sentara Mental Health Services – 34 inpatients. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported. An annual report on the use of seclusion and/or restraints was submitted.

Sentara Senior Behavioral Health Services – 17 outpatients. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported. An annual report on the use of seclusion and/or restraints was submitted.

Tranquility Manor, LLC – 14 residential consumers, and 17 day support consumers. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported. An annual report on the use of seclusion and/or restraints was submitted.

Unique Friends, LLC – 4 consumers are in residential support, and 2 are receiving in-home services. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported. An annual report on the use of seclusion and/or restraints was submitted this date via facsimile. Mr. Daye requested a copy be faxed to his office.

## **VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Committee voted to go into closed session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711A to review a behavior plan submitted by Emerson Place, Inc., and an allegation of abuse at Emerson Place, Inc. Upon reconvening in open session, each member of the LHRC certified that the only thing discussed in closed session was the behavior plan and the alleged abuse. The Committee recommended to continue the evaluations as reflected in the behavior plan, obtain a speech therapist to increase the consumer's communications skills, update the plan quarterly, and report related information to the LHRC. Regarding the alleged abuse, the Committee recommended that the agency follow recommendations made by law enforcement, reporting back to the Committee at the next meeting.

The Committee voted to go back into closed session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711A to review an allegation of abuse at Northwestern Human Services, Inc. Upon reconvening in open session, each member of the LHRC certified that the only thing discussed in closed session was the alleged abuse. The Committee had no further recommendations for Northwestern Human Services, Inc.

The next LHRC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 31, 2006, 9:30 AM sharp at Family Redirection Institute, Inc., 3401 County Street, Portsmouth, VA (398-0200).

Respectfully Submitted,

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Joanna Stinespring, RNC  
LHRC Program Support Liaison

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Dr. Roderick Hawthorne  
LHRC Chairman